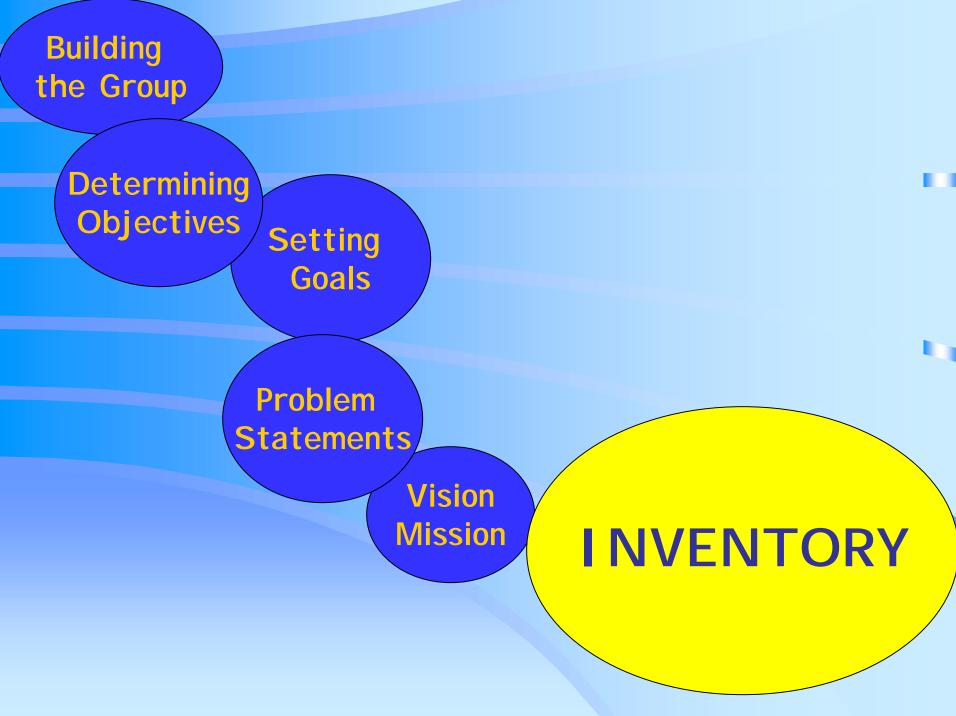
There Does the Inventory Fit in the Big Picture??



Why Inventory

- Assists with 'Ground Truthing' suspected causes and sources
- Helps verify perceived problems and uncover unseen problems
- Target objectives to get the 'best bang for the buck'
- Can help stakeholders understand actual problems more clearly through education

INVENTORY

Formulate & Evaluate Alternatives

Analyze Resources

Obtain Technical Assistance

Make Decisions

Target & Prioritize Actions

A Real Life Example



A local group made the decision to deal with Streambank Erosion as the primary water quality problem.

Streambank Erosion was chosen based on a stakeholder discussion of historically identified problems.

The Inventory

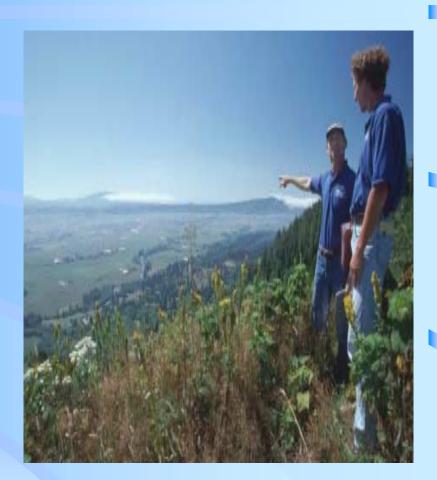
After securing grant funds for streambank erosion issues, an Inventory was conducted.

The Watershed
Coordinator and two
Regional Watershed
Conservationists walked
the streams and drove
the watershed.



General Observations

- Sediment and Nutrient loads appeared to be the biggest water quality impairment.
- Bank erosion was observed,
 but appeared to be
 contributing a minor load.
- Volume and velocity of water flow might be contributing to the bank erosion.



Upstream Observations

- Cropland erosion rates were high
- Gully erosion on all land uses
- Few buffers, filters, or riparian areas on all land uses
- Poor livestock management (overgrazing, no alternative water sources)

Conclusions

- While highly visible, bank erosion was not the biggest contributor to water quality problems!
- Other land use decisions may be affecting the volume and velocity of flow, adding to bank erosion problem.
- Implementing buffers, conservation tillage, and prescribed grazing may result in greater load reductions than streambank stabilization.

Lessons Learned

- The Inventory disproved assumed water quality problems and revealed unknown problems.
- The Inventory helped re-allocate resources to get the 'best bang for the buck'- grant money was refocused from streambank restoration to cost-share for BMPs in the headwaters of the watershed.